

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This phony documentary has no place on the public airwaves.

If Sinclair Broadcasting is so determined that people have a chance to see this film, they should promote it in movie theaters as others have done with other films. The public would then have an unvarnished ability to choose whether or not to view it. If Sinclair proceeds along their intended path, I think the F.C.C. should fulfill its regulatory obligation and issue the harshest possible punishment, hopefully including suspension of all of Sinclair's broadcast licenses.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.